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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1948

BY

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

TAUNTON :

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1948.

*Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the
Taunton Isolation Hospital and Taunton
Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Taunton.*

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(appt. August, 1946).

Sanitary Inspector:

R. H. GARDNER, C.R.S.I. (appt. March, 1911)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. G. PAYNE, C.R.S.I. (appt. Feb., 1936)

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium:

Miss M. E. MOSSMAN, S.R.N. (appt. March, 1943)

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To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1948. The Report follows the lines of those of previous years, but rather more detailed consideration has been given to certain matters.

The year 1948 was a momentous one in the history of this country's Public Health and Medical Services, since on 5th July of that year there came into operation the National Health Service Act, 1946. The changes in hospital administration brought about by this Act have not given rise to any particular difficulty in this District, and should, as time goes on, tend to provide a more efficient service. Medical practitioners of the District, on whom now falls the duty of providing medical attention under the Act to the vast majority of the population, report that the change over from the old order of things has taken place fairly smoothly. The changes brought about by the Act are of such far reaching character that it will probably take a period of years for the full effects to become manifest.

Housing conditions in various parts of the District are still a great source of anxiety from the Public Health point of view, although it is gratifying to see Council houses, in slowly increasing numbers, coming along to the stage of completion and occupation. Many families are still living in ex-military camps, particularly the large camp at Sandhill Park, and conditions in these are such that it is impossible to be complacent about this state of affairs continuing indefinitely.

Attention is drawn in the Report to the unsatisfactory state of the Water Supplies and Sewerage Disposal in some parts of the District. It is hoped that sanction may soon be forthcoming to begin work on the excellent schemes which have been prepared to deal with these matters.

The year was not remarkable for the occurrence of any major epidemic, though a fair number of cases of measles and whooping-cough were reported. Once again there was not a single case of diphtheria, and the latest immunisation figures supplied by the Somerset County Council indicate that the number of young children protected against this disease is considerably higher than was previously believed. All those who have control over children, or influence with their parents, should make great efforts to ensure that the number of those immunised is not allowed to drop.

I wish to thank the Clerk of the Council, the Staff of the Public Health Department, and the Matron and Staff of the Isolation Hospital for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1948.

Area (in acres)	70,675
Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1948 ...	18,490
Census population, 1931	17,101
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books, on 31st December, 1948	5,061
Rateable value 31st December, 1948	£101,032
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1948	£420

Physical Features and Social Conditions.

Taunton Rural District surrounds the Borough of Taunton and is roughly triangular in shape, with Taunton Borough situated near the middle of the triangle. The boundary of the district is formed on the north by the Rural Districts of Williton and Bridgwater, on the east and south-east by the Rural Districts of Langport and Chard, on the south by the County of Devon, and on the south-west and west by the Rural District of Wellington. Those parts of the district which lie to the north-west and to the south are very hilly, while towards the north-east the ground is flat and liable to flooding. The north-west portion extends to the Quantock and Brendon Hills, and the south portion to the Blackdown Hills.

The district in the north is chiefly on the old and new red sandstone, and in the south on the lower lias and upper greensand. The part lying in the valley is on new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The country consists for the most part of rich arable and pasture land, and through the district run the main line of the Western Region of British Railways and four of its branches.

The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agriculture, with withy-growing and basket-making in the north-east. There is a paper mill at the village of Creech St. Michael. A number of women work in the collar factories in Taunton.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:—

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ... 16.12
Legitimate ...	278	136	142	
Illegitimate ...	20	12	8	
	<u>298</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>150</u>	

Still Births—Total 7.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	22.95
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	0.38

Deaths—Total 179.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	9.67
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes—Total 1.

	Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	3.3
From other Maternal Causes ...	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total 2.

Legitimate ...	2
Illegitimate ...	0
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ...	6.67
„ legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	7.19
„ illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	30
„ Measles (all ages) ...	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	—

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live births per 1,000 civilian population ...	17.9
Still births „ „ „ ...	0.42
Deaths, all causes „ „ „ ...	10.8
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	1.02
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	34.0

Causes of Death during 1948.

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Total
All Causes—Total	80	99	179
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	4	3	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	2
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, œsophagus, uterus	1	2	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
Cancer of breast	—	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	9	10	19
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	9	16	25
Heart disease	32	30	62
Other disease of the circulatory system	5	3	8
Bronchitis	2	4	6
Pneumonia	—	4	4
Other respiratory disease	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive disease	1	—	1
Nephritis	1	2	3
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	1	1	2
Suicide	—	1	1
Road traffic accidents	6	1	7
Other violent causes	1	3	4
All other causes	3	9	12

Infant Mortality during 1948.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year
Neonatal Asphyxia	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases. Cases of infectious disease from Taunton Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. This hospital was administered up to 4th July, 1948, by a Joint Hospital Board, representing the various Districts from which cases were admitted. Since that date administration has passed to the Regional Hospital Board, with day to day management carried out by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital and also cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Tuberculosis. Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County scheme for treatment. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopædic treatment are admitted to the Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopædic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with tubercular glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-Pox. Provision for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made at a Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical. The District is served by the Taunton and Somerset Hospital and the various Hospitals in Bristol, at all of which there are in-patient and out-patient facilities.

Chronic Sick. These are received into Hospitals, chiefly those in Taunton and Wellington, which have now passed from Public Assistance administration to that of the Regional Hospital Board.

Mental Sick. Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis. Clinics for this disease are held in the Borough of Taunton, as part of the County Tuberculosis Scheme, and are attended by a County Tuberculosis Officer. In conjunction with the Clinics there is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Disease. A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. This centre was due to come under the Regional Hospital Board administration on 5th July, 1948, but it was delegated to the Somerset County Council to carry on this function up to the end of 1948 as a matter of convenience.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities. The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

Ambulance Facilities. Up to 4th July, 1948, two ambulances, under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, served Taunton and the Rural District. From 5th July, 1948, onwards, ambulance transport became the responsibility of the Somerset County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, places at the disposal of the Minister of Health a sum of £15,000,000 to assist schemes executed after the war for the provision or improvement of water supply and of sewerage facilities in Rural Districts, regard being taken, amongst other things, to the needs of industry and agriculture. The Council have under consideration a post-war scheme for the extension of a piped water supply to parishes requiring it. The provision of such a supply is most urgently needed in the following cases:—Cheddon Fitzpaine, Churchstanton (Churchinford and possibly Stapley), Creech St. Michael (Adsborough), Durston (the village), Kingston (the village, Greenway, Parsonage Lane, Fulford and Dodhill), Otterford (Bishopswood), Stoke St. Mary (the village), Tolland (the village), West Hatch (the village and higher portion of the parish), West Monkton (the village, Cherry Grove and Gotton).

Some of the parishes mentioned are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking, and any supply required in them must be obtained by application to the Corporation. The following parishes are within the limits of supply of the Taunton Corporation:—Bishops Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Kingston, Norton Fitzwarren, Orchard Portman, Pitminster, Ruishton, Staplegrove, Stoke St. Mary, Thornfalcon, Trull and West Monkton.

Three water undertakings are owned by the Taunton Rural District Council. One is at Westleigh in the parish of Lydeard St. Lawrence, and the other in the parishes of West Bagborough and Cothelstone. Another water undertaking is that of the Crown Lands Estate, known as the Portman Supply, from which the Council buys water.

The "Portman Supply" is chlorinated before delivery to the consumers and quarterly bacteriological analyses of the 4 supplies show the waters to be entirely satisfactory.

The piped water supply to various parts of the District has been bacteriologically satisfactory, several examinations having been made during the course of the year. These have also been

satisfactory from a point of view of quantity apart from fairly severe summer shortage in the Portman Supply. This shortage is likely to recur in future years and the problem in the parishes affected, namely, West Hatch, North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory and Thornfalcon is unlikely to be solved until the new scheme of supply for these areas has been put into operation. Most of the wells in the district yield satisfactory water but occasionally contaminated specimens are received from some of them. In these cases steps are taken by cleansing, chlorination or other methods to render the well supplies pure, and this usually leads to satisfactory results. In the parish of West Hatch there was a serious shortage of well water during the summer; this again is a recurring trouble and the projected water scheme for the Eastern parishes of the District will be most beneficial to this area.

Extensions and improvements of the piped supplies in the District during the course of the year included new pipe supplies from Taunton Corporation Waterworks to Bathpool, Council-house estates at Bishops Hull, Creech St. Michael and West Monkton. An additional line of main was laid to carry the Portman Supply from the gathering ground to Bickenhall Reservoir, and work was in progress on the construction of a water tower at Stoke St. Gregory to improve the pressure of water supplies in that area.

The following return presents in tabular form the position as to the distribution of piped water supplies in the District:—

PARISH.	Area of Parish. Acres.	No. of houses in Parish.	No. of houses having a piped water supply under pressure into or on to the house (including those with a tap outside only).	Of the houses not included in 3 (1), the number having within 100 yards of a water main available for a supply.	Of the houses not in 3 (1) & (2) the number that are in villages, hamlets or groups consisting of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter.	Of the houses not connected to a public sewer the number in villages, hamlets or groups of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter.
	1	2	3 (1)	3 (2)	3 (3)	4
Ash Priors	641	33	19	11	—	—
Bickenhall	1143	47	36	—	—	—
Bishops Hull	1283	390	331	25	—	—
Bishops Lydeard	4832	401	318	42	—	20
Cheddon Fitzpaine	1883	115	28	19	—	23
Churchstanton	5435	146	—	—	38	38
Combe Florey	1382	66	55	4	—	—
Corfe	1165	77	77	—	—	22
Cothelstone	1455	37	16	—	—	—
Creech St. Michael	2298	289	145	97	—	172
Curland	648	39	20	—	—	—
Durston	1013	49	—	—	—	43
Halse	1320	81	39	19	—	58
Hatch Beauchamp	1408	110	105	5	—	—
Kingston	2584	212	29	5	79	123
Lydeard St. Lawrence	2748	108	75	5	—	39
North Curry	5822	377	327	30	—	—
Norton Fitzwarren	2054	223	152	71	—	—
Orchard Portman	1665	50	17	—	—	—
Otterford	2446	89	—	—	34	—
Pitminster	5780	353	170	88	—	34 (Pitminster)
Ruishton	1027	138	107	31	—	33 (Blagdon)
Staple Fitzpaine	3029	56	42	—	—	64 (Staplehay)
Staplegrove	1027	84	42	42	—	49
Stoke St. Gregory	4135	348	345	3	—	114
Stoke St. Mary	2019	145	61	9	—	—
Thornfalcon	822	39	37	—	—	—
Tolland	842	24	2	—	—	—
Trull	2172	225	192	36	—	140
West Bagborough	2006	107	98	—	—	57
West Hatch	1619	84	9	—	—	—
West Monkton	2972	353	180	101	20	110 (Bathpool)
						101 (M. Heath.)
						39 (Village)

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the Council had, at the end of the year, under consideration with the expert assistance of their Engineers a post-war Scheme for the Sewerage of those parts of the District which were not sewered. Proper Sewage disposal is not only an amenity but it is a necessity and is inevitable whenever a piped water supply has been provided. Pail closets and privy middens are most undesirable because they are more often than not badly attended to owing to the unpleasant work connected with them. A multiplication of privately owned cesspools and septic tanks is also undesirable and these have been increasing in number because of the addition of water closets and baths to houses having a piped water supply.

During the course of the year a number of cases of alleged nuisance arising from the effluents of septic tanks were investigated. Some of the complaints were fully justified and various measures were taken in an attempt to improve matters.

Only 7 parishes out of 32 in the District have Sewage Disposal works of their own and they are the parishes of:—

Bishops Hull—though some 30 houses or so are not connected with the main sewer. *Bishops Lydeard*.—Some of the Council Houses in this parish are not connected with the sewer. *Combe Florey*.—The disposal works here serves its purpose for the time being but is not large enough to deal with sewage from any more houses. *Corfe*.—These works have recently come into operation. *Hatch Beauchamp*.—These works are very old and entirely unsatisfactory. *North Curry*.—These works are in the nature of a sewage farm; it is doubtful whether it is not already working to over capacity and suffering from "Sewage sickness." *Norton Fitzwarren*.—Recent disposal works have been constructed here and should prove ample and satisfactory for a further increase in population.

On the whole, therefore, it may be said that the amount of sewerage in the District is negligible and to create new Disposal Works will be an expensive matter. This being the case, the Council have decided that the schemes submitted by their Engineers should be classified in the following order of priority so that the necessary works may be carried out in stages:—

1st Priority.

Bishops Hull.—Shutewater Hill.
Hatch Beauchamp Parish.
Staplegrove Parish.—Village only.
Pitminster Parish.
Trull Parish, including Comeytrowe but omitting Dipford area.
West Monkton Parish.
Norton Fitzwarren.—Station Road and Southern part of parish.
Ruishton.—Village only.
Creech St. Michael.—Village as far as Police Station, excluding higher part of parish and Ham.

2nd Priority.

Lydeard St. Lawrence.—Village.
West Bagborough.—Village.
Combe Florey.—Village.
(The possibility of these three parishes being drained to the existing works at Bishops Lydeard to be considered.)
Halse Parish.
Ash Priors Parish.
Kingston Parish and the North and West part of Staplegrove including Langford.
Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish, including Lyngford.
Stoke St. Gregory.—Portion South of railway.
North Curry.—Oxen Lane and Greenway and extension North-east of parish.
Stoke St. Mary Parish.
Ruishton.—Henlade and Lower Henlade.
Shoreditch.

3rd Priority.

Creech St. Michael.—Ham and Northern part of parish including Adsborough.
Durstun Parish.
Stoke St. Gregory.—Portion North of railway.
North Curry.—Knapp, Lillesden, Wrantage and Newport.
Thornfalcon Parish.
Staple Fitzpaine Parish.
Curland Parish.
Churchstanton Parish (Stapley and Churchinford).

Otterford Parish (Bishopswood).

Bishops Hull.—Rumwell, Titherleigh, Roughmoor, Barr and Upcott.

Pitminster.—Howleigh and Angersleigh.

Trull.—Dipford area.

The drainage from the areas adjoining the Borough of Taunton mentioned in the 1st Priority list could be received into the Borough's sewers if permission to do so is obtained, and the acquisition of the sewage disposal works recently constructed for military use at Sandhill Park in the parish of Bishops Lydeard and also the works at Silk Mill Crossing, in the Parish of Norton Fitzwarren, would be of great help in the general scheme.

Refuse Collection. The collection and disposal of unburnable household refuse now operates in all the parishes of the District. The average amount of collection per month is about 55 three-ton lorry loads. The loads are tipped into clay pits in the parish of Creech St. Michael and controlled. The tips are constantly sprayed with proprietary insecticides to meet the fly menace and the rats are successfully kept under by the application of poisoned bait containing zinc phosphide and arsenic after pre-baiting with damp sausage rusks.

Salvage. This war-time measure continues to be carried out by the Public Health Staff and is still successful. Salvage of the following materials was made during the year:—

Paper	...	...	...	...	54	tons.
Iron	...	...	...	...	13	„
Non-ferrous metals	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	„
Bones	...	...	...	...	12	„
Rags	...	...	...	...	$2\frac{3}{4}$	„
Bottles	...	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$	„

Cash value of above:—£509.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors:—

Number and nature of inspections during the year:—

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	1,243
No. of Dwelling houses repaired	...	...	...	...	20
„	„	in hand	...	...	10
Voluntarily closed	...	...	...	...	—
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	315
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	31
Other premises where food is prepared or sold	...	...	...	...	85
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	361
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	...	...	...	...	13
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	...	...	...	...	30
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	57
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	102

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	82
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	2

Result of service of Notices:—

Total Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	80
Notices standing over at the end of 1948	...	...	...	...	4

In addition, 35 samples of water were taken for examination by the County Bacteriologist. 10 of these (from wells) were unsatisfactory. 7 wells were closed and main water laid on, and 3 others after repair, pumping out and heavy chlorination eventually produced potable waters. Main water was laid on to 9 houses during the year.

Shops and Offices. Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences, 27 visits were made.

Camping Sites. The Local Authority have issued 11 licences in respect of these in accordance with Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement. There has been no necessity to take action under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are not any in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. No cases occurred during the year.

Schools. The sanitary condition and water supplies of the Schools in the area are fairly satisfactory. The Schools and medical examination of the scholars are under the control of the Education Committee of the County Council.

Offensive Trades. There are 2 Offensive Trades in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1946. One is that of Tripe Boiling, and the other a Knacker's Yard for the provision of dog and cat food. The premises are well maintained and in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses. There are 17 Bakehouses in the District. 31 inspections were made to them. They are on the whole satisfactory. 16 of them now draw their water supply from public mains.

Milk Supply. There are 412 milk producing premises in the District. Owing to the large number, it was only possible to inspect each one once during the year. As a result of inspections the following works have been carried out:—

New cowsheds	...	...	...	...	1
New dairies	...	...	...	...	2
Yards concreted	...	...	...	...	7
Existing cowsheds remodelled	...	...	...	...	12
Existing dairies remodelled	...	...	...	...	1
Water from mains installed	...	...	...	...	2

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—Under this Order, 3 cows had to be slaughtered during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.—The Registers which have to be kept under this Order show as follows:—

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	412
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—			
(a) Distributors only	...	...	7
(b) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	40

There are 2 Supplementary Licences issued by the Taunton Rural District Council for the sale of Pasteurised milk in their area but it is not Pasteurised therein.

Meat Supply. Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter houses, and the meat after inspection is distributed over a very large area within and without the district. The inspection of meat under these conditions takes up a large portion of the time of the two Sanitary Inspectors. The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the number of parts thereof condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	0	0	21,262	19	1
Number inspected ...	0	0	21,262	19	1
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	34	7	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	0	0	41	3	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	0	0	.35	5.3	100.0
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0

The following were also condemned as being unfit for food:—

Bacon ...	12 lbs.	Tinned Foods ...	39 tins.
Beef ...	631 lbs.	Margarine ...	3½ lbs.
Mutton ...	115 lbs.	Cheese ...	13 lbs.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.—No outbreaks of Food Poisoning have occurred in the District in the year under review.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The inspection of factories and workshops in the district from a public health point of view is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department. Routine visits are paid to the various premises and the following table gives particulars of this work. It is to be noted that the term Factories as used in this connection now includes Workshops, which accounts for the large number on the Register in this Rural District.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspection.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	117	122	4	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies:				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938.	6	5	0	0
(b) Others	0	0	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	0	0	0	0
Total ...	123	127	4	0

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	3	3	0	0	0

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of outwork-ers in August list re-quired by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecu-tions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some premises.	Notices served.	Prosecu-tions.
Wearing apparel: Making, &c. ...	42	0	0	0	0	0
Cleaning and Washing ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	42	0	0	0	0	0

HOUSING.

There have been no cases of legal overcrowding during the year.

Five houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, at Athelney, North Curry, Creech St. Michael, Stoke St. Gregory and West Monkton had their licences renewed. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Sec. 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the housing needs of the influx of agricultural workers and covered by Regulation 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them in such a condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used as a temporary wartime measure for housing purposes without detriment to health. Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the occupation of a house, but the licence is not operative for more than six months at a time.

The Council have had under consideration the post-war housing needs of the District (a) to replace unfit dwellings; (b) to abate overcrowding; (c) for other reasons.

A survey is still being carried out throughout the District, and 1,243 houses were inspected and classified.

The Council's building programme was as follows:—

Parish.	Number completed during year 1948.	Number under construction at 31st Dec., 1948.
Bishops Hull	2	22
Combe Florey	—	4
Creech St. Michael	—	10
Lydeard St. Lawrence	4	4
Stoke St. Gregory	6	4
Trull	4	4
West Bagborough	—	4
West Monkton	12	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	28	82
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following table shows the Parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts:—

Parish.		Address.		Number of Houses.
Bishops Hull	...	1/46 Smithy Cottages	...	46
do.	...	20/35 Mountway Cottages	...	16
do.	...	47 & 48 Smithy Cottages	...	2
				— 64
Bishops Lydeard	...	1/8 Gore Cottages	...	8
do.	...	1/10 Pound Lane	...	10
do.	...	1/12 Mill Lane Cottages	...	12
do.	...	1/30 Halfyard Cottages	...	30
				— 60
Cheddon Fitzpaine	...	1/8 School Cottages	...	8
Churchstanton	...	1/4 Stapley Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/4 Church Road Cottages	...	4
				— 8
Creech St. Michael	...	1/8 Ryes Terrace	...	8
do.	...	1/6 Charlton Lane Cottages	...	6
do.	...	1/4 Cheads Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/16 Rocketts Cottages	...	16
				— 34
Curland	...	1/4 Castle View	...	4
Hatch Beauchamp	...	1/4 Palmers Green Cottages	...	4
Kingston	...	1/6 Parks Cottages	...	6
do.	...	1 and 2 Chaces	...	2
do.	...	1/8 Greenway Terrace	...	8
do.	...	1/4 Fulford Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/10 Parsonage Cottages	...	10
				— 30
Lydeard St. Lawrence..	...	1/4 Nethercott Road	...	4
do.	...	3/6 Cross Croft	...	4
				— 8
North Curry	...	1/6 Oxen Lane	...	6
do.	...	1/4 Backham Cottages	...	4
do.	...	1/10 Croft Cottages	...	10
do.	...	1/8 Lillesdon Terrace	...	8
do.	...	1/8 Cricket Cottages	...	8
				— 36

Parish.	Address.	Number of Houses.
Norton Fitzwarren ...	1/4 Burnshill Terrace ...	4
do. ...	1/24 Rectory Road Cottages ...	24
do. ...	1/10 Station Road Cottages ...	10
do. ...	1/4 Manleys Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/4 Court Cottages ...	4
		— 46
Pitminster ...	1/8 Littleham Cottages ...	8
Ruishton ...	1/5 Ruishton Lane Cottages ...	5
do. ...	1/3 Lipe Lane Cottages ...	3
do. ...	1/4 Slades Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/12 Steart Cottages ...	12
		— 24
Staplegrove ...	1/6 Hillhead Cottages ...	6
Stoke St. Gregory ...	1/16 Willey Road ...	16
do. ...	1/8 Stathe Cottages ...	8
do. ...	1/10 Woodhill Terrace ...	10
do. ...	11/16 do. ...	6
		— 40
Stoke St. Mary ...	1/4 Homefield Cottages ...	4
Thornfalcon ...	1/8 Glebe Cottages ...	8
Trull ...	1 and 2 Horts Cottages ...	2
do. ...	9/12 Mill Lane ...	4
		— 6
West Bagborough ...	1/10 Vale View Cottages ...	10
do. ...	1/4 Hill View Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/4 South View Cottages ...	4
		— 18
West Monkton ...	1/4 Titley Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/4 Brittons Ash Cottages ...	4
do. ...	1/6 Hyde Lane Cottages ...	6
do. ...	1/14 School Road Cottages ...	14
do. ...	1/4 Elms Estate ...	4
do. ...	5/8 do. ...	4
do. ...	21/24 do. ...	4
		— 40
TOTAL ...		456

Of the above total of 456 houses, 204 were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years, under the Housing Acts of 1930 and 1936.

Pyrland Hall	...	...	2
Courtlands	...	...	12
Sandhill Park	...	...	108
Culmhead	...	...	20

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis), their age groups and the notification rates compared with those of England and Wales, and the number admitted to the Isolation Hospital:—

[illegible]

Notification rates for Taunton Rural District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births:—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications.	Rates for	
		Taunton R.D.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	5	0.27	1.73
Whooping Cough	60	3.25	3.42
Measles	53	2.87	9.34
Diphtheria	—	—	0.08
Acute Pneumonia	11	0.59	0.73
Dysentery	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	0.01
Paratyphoid	—	—	0.01
Erysipelas	4	0.22	0.21
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0.05	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	0.06	0.03
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis..	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1948 and mortality from the disease:—

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Ages in Years.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	...	...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	...	...	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 — 35	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
35 — 45	...	...	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 — 55	...	...	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	...	...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Not known	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	25		8		4		1	

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 81 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 22 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Prevention of Blindness.

No arrangements have been made by the Local Authority with respect to the prevention of Blindness, under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are notified by the Doctors to the Public Health Department of the County Council and when necessary are admitted to the Taunton Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continues to be carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by the Medical Practitioners in the District. The County Council's Immunisation Scheme, which was begun in Taunton Rural District during 1941, continues to make progress, and the following figures supplied by the County Council show the condition of the child population as regards immunisation at the end of 1948:—

Pre-School Children: aged 0—4 years.

Number Immunised.	% Immunised of Total Children in this Age Group.
952	68.24

School Children: aged 5—14 years.

Number Immunised.	% Immunised of Total Children in this Age Group.
1,355	59.19

It is gratifying to note that no case of diphtheria was notified in the District during the course of the year.

In the recent Circulars (193/45 and 194/45), issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary

inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that if Diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year, dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of toxoid before he begins school attendance. After 8 years of mass immunisation of the children of this country, approximately 55 per cent. have been immunised. The aim is to immunise at least 75 per cent. The Circulars point out that there are some 600,000 children being added to the country's susceptible population every year, and it is suggested that it is to the age groups one and two that much greater attention should be directed. It is estimated that the rate of dying from Diphtheria is approximately 23 times as great amongst the non-immunised as amongst the immunised.



